GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:625
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
MORTALITY RATE IN CHILD BIRTH
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa State accounts for the highest mortality rate in the birth in the country; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken or contemplated by the Government to avoid this trend?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) No data on mortality rate in birth is available. However, as per the data provided by Registrar General of India, Orissa has the highest infant mortality rate in the country. For maternal mortality, the data available from Registrar General of India for 1998 shows that Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have maternal mortality rates higher than Orissa.

(b) Under the Reproductive and Child Health programme, launched in the country 1997, interventions for reducing infant child and maternal morbidity and mortality are being implemented in all the states including Orissa. These interventions are: For Children

Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections, prophylaxis for Vitamin A deficiency and iron deficiency anemia and Essential Newborn Care.

For Mothers:

The interventions include antenatal and post-natal check-up, improving safe delivery practices, prophylaxis and treatment of nutritional anemia, immunization against tetanus and promotion of birth spacing.

Special efforts for improving immunization against tetanus and promotion of birth spacing.

Special efforts for improving implementation of the programme are being made in identified border districts in 16 States of the country, including Orissa with the help of UNICEF.

A new project for strengthening of the immunization programme with World Bank assistance has also been finalized and includes 5 districts in Orissa. A scheme for training of Dais is being implemented in 142 districts, including 14 in Orissa with a safe delivery rate of less than 30 percent. In addition, 102 districts, including 7 in Orissa have been identified for holding camps to improve delivery of services under the programme.

A National Nutritional Policy has been formulated in 1993 and the national plan of action on nutrition is being implemented through different departments of Government of India including the Integrated Child Development Services of the Department of Family Welfare.

Apart from health related factors, illiteracy, poverty and general economic and social development of the people have a direct bearing on the infant and maternal mortality rate. To tackle these, programmes such as Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Indira Awas Yojana and Adult Literacy programme are being implemented by different departments and agencies of Government of India.